



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Two employment agencies and nine individuals charged with hiring and harboring illegal aliens, mail fraud and laundering \$5.3 million
-- ICE agents arrest suspects in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two temporary employment agencies and nine individuals affiliated with the agencies have been charged in a \$5.3 million scheme involving the employment of illegal aliens, harboring of illegal aliens, mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering, according to a federal indictment unsealed today in the Northern District of Ohio.

This morning, agents from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Labor Inspector General, and FBI arrested three defendants in Philadelphia, PA, one in New York, N.Y., and another in Columbus, Ohio. A sixth defendant has agreed to turn himself over to federal authorities. The three remaining individuals are at large.

According to the indictment, the defendants conspired to employ illegal aliens, as well as legal aliens who had no authorization to work in the United States. They also conspired to provide transportation and housing for these aliens, as well as help them obtain fraudulent documents. The indictment also alleges that they profited from this illegal employment scheme and laundered millions in proceeds.

At the heart of the scheme were **HV Connect, Inc.**, a temporary employment agency that operated in Philadelphia, PA, and Canton, Ohio, and **TN Job Service, Inc.**, a temporary employment agency that operated in Philadelphia, PA, Pennsauken, NJ, Canton, Ohio, and New Philadelphia, Ohio.

According to the indictment, these agencies contracted with unwitting companies in Ohio to provide them with several hundred workers. In doing so, the employment agencies falsely represented to their clients that the workers were legal and authorized to work in the United States, when most were illegal and did not have work authorization. The employment firms also falsely represented that they would pay payroll taxes and workers' compensation premiums for the employees.

The indictment further alleges that the owners of the temporary employment agencies and other defendants laundered roughly \$5.3 million in proceeds that they earned from this illegal employment, mail and wire fraud scheme through various business and personal bank accounts.

Several of the defendants used illegal proceeds from this scheme for personal transactions, including the construction of a new home in New Jersey, the purchase of jewelry, clothing, liquor, and spending at casinos, according to the indictment.

“Worksite enforcement is a crucial piece of the department’s Secure Border Initiative,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “This case in particular, where employers are alleged to have deliberately provided illegal aliens to employers, exemplifies precisely the type of illegal facilitation that must be stopped. We will continue to crack down on those who promote violations of the rule of law by knowingly or recklessly furnishing illegal workers and employing abusive labor practices.”

“ICE has no tolerance for companies that knowingly engage in the employment of illegal aliens,” said ICE Assistant Secretary Julie Myers. “We will use all of our investigative tools to bring these unscrupulous employers to justice. Today’s arrests reflect our get-tough approach. ICE is committed to exposing all illegal activities undertaken by companies to support their employment of aliens unauthorized to work in the United States. Companies such as HV Connect, Inc., undermine our laws, which ultimately undermines legal American workers.”

The indictment charges the following defendants:

- 1) **Trung “Tom” Q. Nguyen:** operator of HV Connect and TN Job Service / arrested today in Philadelphia.
- 2) **An “Andrew” Q. Nguyen:** operator of HV Connect and TN Job Service / arrested today in Philadelphia.
- 3) **Hon Vuong:** operator of HV Connect / remains at large.
- 4) **Mshenga Abdy Nasseb:** operator of HV Connect and TN Job Service and employed to supervise aliens / remains at large.
- 5) **Ridha Boughalmi:** employed by operators of HV Connect and TN Job Service to supervise aliens / has agreed to voluntarily surrender to authorities.
- 6) **Ashraf “Alex” M. Abdelwahed:** operator of Alexandria Employment Agency in New York, a temporary employment agency that allegedly recruited aliens and assigned them to work for HV Connect in Ohio / arrested today in New York, N.Y.
- 7) **Abdulrahman A. Mtumwa:** employed by operators of HV Connect and TN Job Service to supervise aliens / arrested today in Columbus, Ohio.
- 8) **Thao Thi Nguyen:** wife of Trung Nguyen / arrested today in Philadelphia
- 9) **Tai “Terry” Van Nguyen:** operator of TN Job Service/ remains at large
- 10) **HV Connect, Inc.**

11) TN Job Service, Inc.

An indictment is merely an allegation. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.